The Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Lodhi Road, New Delhi also has sanctioned some house buliding loans in these States, and improved Chulhas have been incorporated in the design of many houses for which loan has been sanctioned.

Cooking gas connections

*297. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total out-put of cooking gas in the country;

(b) which are the companies in the public and the private sectors which have so far been authorised to supply cooking gas connections to the general public in the country;

(c) whether these companies have been allotted specified areas;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(e) how many gas connections have been issued to the general public in the country through the above companies so far;

(f) how many gas connections were issued so far against the usual bookings and how many against priority sanctions; and

(g) what is the position of supply of cooking gas connections in the Union Territory of Delhi indicating how many gas connections have been given so far and how many applications are still pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) The indigenous production of LPG during 1985-86 is estimated at 1,187,000 MT.

(b) The marketing of LPG is done only by three public sector oil companies. *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The total number of LPG consumers at present is approximately 99 lakhs.

(f) The number of priority connections released is a very small proportion of the total connections released in a year.

(g) Release of new LPG connections in Delhi is done under the annual all-India customer enrolment programme of the oil companies. As against a consumer strength of approximately 7.3 lakhs in Delhi, the present number of persons on the waiting list is approximately 5.12 lakhs.

Casual employees in Mahboobnagar Tele-communication division

*298. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHA KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the numer of casual employees appointed in Mahboobnagar, Andhra Pradesh Telecommunication Division during the last three years; and

(b) how many of them are local candidates belonging to that district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Information in respect of (a) and (b) is being collected and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

*299. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturing capacity of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is fully utilised, if not, what are reasons therefor and the extent to which it is not utilised; and